



Photography by Mildred Owens

3rd Cycle Seedlings

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The Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) is committed to producing quality seedlings for Alabama landowners. For the past 35 years the Commission has made huge efforts to improve quality traits in the pine seedlings produced. Improvements in quality traits include volume, disease resistance, and form.

As a landowner, you might ask how these improvements would benefit you when harvesting begins. Consider this, trees grown from our 1st cycle seedlings produce on average 12% more volume at harvest than trees grown from unimproved seedlings. Trees grown from our 1.5 cycle seedlings produce on average 18% more volume at harvest than trees grown from unimproved seedlings. Trees grown from our 2nd cycle seedlings produce on average 25% more volume at harvest than trees grown from unimproved seedlings. Also, infection by fusiform rust at harvest can be decreased

from 10-23% below that of trees grown from unimproved seedlings.

Currently, the AFC is completing establishment of Piedmont and Coastal Loblolly 3rd Cycle seed orchards. Our plans include offering 3rd Cycle Piedmont and Coastal Loblolly seedlings within ten years. We expect gains from trees grown from our 3rd Cycle seedlings to produce at least 30% more volume at harvest than trees grown from unimproved seedlings.

Future improvements in seedlings offered by the Alabama Forestry Commission will be directed more toward other quality traits such as fusiform rust resistance and drought resistance. 🌲



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